

METHOD, SYSTEM, PROGRAM, AND DATA STRUCTURES FOR USING A  
DATABASE TO APPLY PATCHES TO A COMPUTER SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

5      Provided is a method, system, program, and data structure for determining patches to  
apply to a computer system, wherein the patch includes content to add to the computer. A  
realization list of realization identifiers corresponds to realizations associated with the computer,  
wherein each realization defines a state of the computer. A realization database includes  
realization objects, wherein each realization object is uniquely identified by a realization  
10      identifier of one realization and includes a patch list indicating those patches whose installation  
relates to the computer state defined by the realization. The patch lists are accessed from the  
realization database for those realization objects whose realization identifiers match the  
realizations identifiers on the realization list. A determination is made of all the patches on the  
accessed patch lists. A determination is made from the determined patches on the accessed  
patch lists those patches that are capable of being installed on the computer.